

Laboratory Update Bulletin

Ministry of the Environment
Safe Drinking Water Branch
A newsletter for licensed Drinking Water Testing Laboratories
Issue # 3 – March 2011

To help ensure safe drinking water in Ontario, this update provides clarification on how the Ministry of the Environment interprets certain sections of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 (SDWA) and the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA) and their regulations. It helps to ensure that all licensed laboratories have a common understanding of their requirements and are in compliance with existing regulations.

The following technical clarifications have been approved by the Assistant Director, Safe Drinking Water Branch, Drinking Water Management Division, Ministry of the Environment and the Environmental Health Manager, Public Health Protection and

Prevention Branch, Public Health Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and as such, by way of this bulletin, shall be considered for the purpose of assessing compliance until such time that this bulletin is amended or revoked.

For Inquiries Contact:

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Overgrown Bacteria

The following table has been updated from the Laboratory Update Bulletin Issue #2 (issued August 2010) to reflect the use of overgrown qualifiers in the Ministry of the Environment's

Drinking Water Information System (DWIS) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Laboratory Results Management Application (LRMA).

Media Used	Growth on Media	Qualifier used	Qualifier Meaning	Adverse	Report to SAC/LMOH/PHU	Upload to DWIS	Upload to LRMA
Selective for both total coliform and <i>E. coli</i> (i.e., DC)	“overgrown bacterial plate” with TC and/or EC growth	NDOGT	NO DATA: Overgrown with Target	YES for both EC and TC (even if only one growth was present on the plate)	Report NDOGT for EC and NDOGT for TC	Leave result field blank and use NDOGT in the Value Qualifier field for both EC and TC	Leave result field blank and use NDOGT in the Value Qualifier field for both EC and TC
Selective media for <i>E. coli</i> only	“overgrown bacterial plate” with <i>E. coli</i>	NDOGEC/OGEC	NO DATA: Overgrown with <i>E. coli</i>	YES for EC	<i>E. coli</i> overgrown NDOGEC - SAC OGEC - PHU	Leave result field blank and use NDOGEC in the Value Qualifier field for EC only	Leave result field blank and use OGEC in the Value Qualifier field for EC only
Selective media for total coliform only	“overgrown bacterial plate” with TC	NDOGTC/OGTC	NO DATA: Overgrown with Total Coliform	YES for TC	TC overgrown NDOGTC - SAC OGTC - PHU	Leave result field blank and use NDOGTC in the Value Qualifier field for TC only	Leave result field blank and use OGTC in the Value Qualifier field for TC only
Selective for both total coliform and <i>E. coli</i> (i.e., DC)	“overgrown bacterial plate” with nontarget	NDOGN	NO DATA: Overgrown with nontarget	YES for EC and TC	NDOGN for TC and NDOGN for EC	Leave result field blank and use NDOGN in the Value Qualifier field for both EC and TC	Leave result field blank and use NDOGN in the Value Qualifier field for both EC and TC

Table continued...

Media Used	Growth on Media	Qualifier used	Qualifier Meaning	Adverse	Report to SAC/LMOH/PHU	Upload to DWIS	Upload to LRMA
Selective media for <i>E. coli</i> only	“overgrown bacterial plate” with nontarget	NDOGN	NO DATA: Overgrown with nontarget	YES for EC	NDOGN – <i>E. coli</i> overgrown	Leave result field blank and use NDOGN in the Value Qualifier field for EC only	Leave result field blank and use NDOGN in the Value Qualifier field for EC only
Selective media for total coliform only	“overgrown bacterial plate” with nontarget	NDOGN	NO DATA: Overgrown with nontarget	YES for TC	NDOGN – TC overgrown	Leave result field blank and use NDOGN in the Value Qualifier field for TC only	Leave result field blank and use NDOGN in the Value Qualifier field for TC only
HPC media	“overgrown bacterial plate” with HPC	NDOGHPC/OGHPC	NO DATA: Overgrown with HPC	NO	No verbal reporting	Leave result field blank and use NDOGHPC in the Value Qualifier field for HPC	Result field is required and use OGHPC in the Value Qualifier field for HPC

Laboratory Services Notification

Ontario Regulation 248/03, section 12, requires laboratories to report designated drinking water tests on a form approved by the Director, within 28 days of getting approval to report results. Although uploads to DWIS and LRMA sometimes fail, laboratories are required to upload the data. If the laboratory suspects they can not upload information due to an issue related to Laboratory Services Notification (LSN), they must follow the steps below.

For O. Reg. 170/03 and O. Reg. 243/08 Drinking Water Systems:

1. Document all actions taken to upload the information.
2. Verify that the upload failure is caused by a LSN issue by contacting Sonia Coelho at **416-235-6311**, sonia.coelho@ontario.ca.
3. If the problem is related to a profile issue, contact the Help Desk at **1-888-677-4873** or **416-246-7171**.
4. Contact the client to request the submission of the completed or corrected LSN.
5. Attempt to upload again within 20 days of the original failure.
6. If the upload is still unsuccessful after 20 days, contact Jennifer Koene at **416-235-6517**, jennifer.koene@ontario.ca for further follow up.

For O. Reg. 318/08 or 319/08 Small Drinking Water Systems:

1. Document all actions taken to upload the information.
2. Contact the local Public Health Unit for a resolution.